

Mr. Speaker, on this historic centennial, I congratulate the people of Willcox on preserving this gem of the Old West and wish them many years of future success.

WE NEED TO DO MORE TO BUILD THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE WEST

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, this week, we made some important strides on water in the West, especially in the time of drought we have in California.

We need to do much more to build the kind of supply that is necessary to get out of the drought. Unfortunately, the bureaucracy doesn't reward that with slow permit process or even some of the things we had to battle this week, such as deferring more water for fish that isn't even in records of decision or been feasibly shown to be scientifically sound.

At the same time we have to curb the bureaucracy, we have to be positive moving forward with new storage projects, such as Sites Reservoir, such as other obstacles we have in the State of California and throughout the West to address this drought, not just take it to the "church of climate change" and think that is the whole problem.

We are going to have to be proactive, as we have been in previous generations.

□ 1100

FOSTER CARE MONTH

(Ms. BASS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join President Obama in recognizing May as National Foster Care Month.

The goal of this special month is to raise awareness about the experiences of more than 400,000 youth in the foster care system and to recognize the essential work that foster parents, social workers, and advocates have in the lives of children in foster care throughout the United States.

Foster care was created as a temporary placement for children who have been abused or neglected. The act of removing a child, even from an abusive home, is traumatic; yet, even in the face of these challenges, the resiliency of foster youth remains strong.

For example, Maurissa, a young woman who spent most of her high school years in a residential facility in Los Angeles, was able to graduate high school with honors and go on to Oxnard College. It took Maurissa almost 10 years to complete community college. She explains: "I was living on my own and working a minimum of 40 hours per week, and I had to take algebra nine times to pass."

Maurissa struggled to get past her experiences but was able to find some-

one who believed in her. Dr. Adam Grudberg, a faculty member at the residential facility, encouraged her to reach her dreams.

When Dr. Grudberg died at the young age of 30, Maurissa knew she couldn't let him down. She went on to graduate from California State University with her undergraduate degree in psychology and then on to Harvard Graduate School of Education to receive her master's degree in human development and psychology.

In honor of Maurissa's courage and Dr. Grudberg's inspiration, I invite my colleagues to join the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth and cosponsor the bipartisan resolution in recognition of National Foster Care Month.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GUILLERMO OCHOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Ceres community, former Ceres City Councilmember Guillermo Ochoa. The beloved father, son, son-in-law, brother, and uncle died at the age of 54 on Monday, March 2.

Guillermo was born on August 29, 1960. He immigrated to Ceres, California, from Mexico when he was 9 and became an American citizen. He attended school in Ceres at Caswell Elementary School, Mae Hensley Junior High School, and Ceres High School.

After graduating from Ceres High in 1979, Guillermo attended Modesto Junior College and transferred to St. Mary's College of California. He earned a BS in business administration and economics from St. Mary's in 1984.

Over the course of 17 years, Guillermo was employed in an administrative capacity for several employers, including Campbell's Soup, Diamond of California, Yellow Roadway, and ConAgra Foods.

Guillermo became a dedicated public servant in 2005, when he was appointed to the Ceres City Council. He ran for a seat on the city council 2 years later and won, making him the first Latino immigrant to become an elected city councilmember in Ceres.

"Working and succeeding together" was a slogan Guillermo lived by. He demonstrated his dedication to community service through the many committees, boards, and organizations he was a member of.

The list includes the Ceres Chamber of Commerce, the Society for Human Resources Management, the StanCOG Policy Board, the Tuolumne River Regional Park committee, the Mello-Roos joint powers authority board, the City-School Committees, the Ceres Partnership for Healthy Children Committee, the Howard Stevenson Memorial Com-

mittee, the Daniel Whitmore House Preservation Committee, and the Latino Community Roundtable. He also served as president and vice president of the Hispanic Leadership Council during various periods of his life.

He was a true servant to the public and a strong community leader. He motivated Ceres students to actively learn, working diligently with a Modesto group of students in an HLC organization called Hispanic Youth Leadership Council. The council has had a lasting impact on the educational success of students in both communities.

Although he was not reelected again in 2011, a few years later, he achieved his true dream of opening his own business, Garcia's Market, a new grocery store in Empire, California. To this day, Garcia's Market remains a vibrant testament to the economic vitality of the American free enterprise system.

One has to admire men like Guillermo Ochoa, who display consistent dedication to public service. He remained active in the community even after he was unseated from the city council.

Guillermo was once asked what sets him apart. His response was: "My business and professional experience, as well as being a product of two diverse cultures, which helps me understand the issues that face our community as a whole."

Guillermo has set a loving standard of humanity for us all to remember him by. Guillermo leaves behind his wife, Martha Ochoa; a daughter, Kimberly Ochoa; and a son, Christian Ochoa—each of them from Ceres, California.

Also from Ceres, he leaves behind his father, Guillermo Ochoa, Sr.; mother, Maria Ochoa; sister, Luz Ochoa; nephew, Alexis Ochoa; sister, Irma Ochoa; brother-in-law, Rosendo Ruiz; nieces, Kassandra Ruiz and Clarissa Ruiz; and nephew, Angel Ruiz.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and recognizing my very, very good friend for his unwavering leadership and many accomplishments and contributions to our community.

He had a genuine love for the people and community he worked so hard to help. We will have a long memory of him.

I now yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY).

SYRIAN ATROCITIES

Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend a voice to the people of Syria, many of whom have been silenced by a cruel and oppressive dictator.

This very moment, 5,500 miles from this Chamber, in the country of Syria, innocent people are suffering under a regime bent on crushing freedom.

I met recently with a group of Syrian Americans in Charleston, West Virginia, my congressional district. Many of them have family members and loved ones in Syria. The stories I heard are alarming.

Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad is waging an all-out war against his own